

REMARKS

In a telephone interview dated January 5, 2004, Applicants urged that the present invention is directed to a bushing having improved anti-friction properties in heavy duty applications, and particularly those involving high press velocities and substantial side thrust forces.

The Examiner advised that in his opinion the claims read on point contact (tapping) and thus any arguments regarding linear or rotary contact motion were not commensurate with the claims.

It was agreed that, to more clearly delineate between the present invention and the cited prior art, a continuation application would be filed directed to devices for carrying out heavy duty linear or rotary contact motion.

Accordingly, Applicants present herewith a new set of claims which parallel the original claims but define the invention not in terms of the bushing to be used in the heavy duty device, but in terms of the devices for carrying out rotational or linear contact motion with high press velocities and substantial side thrust forces.

Further, during the Interview the Examiner indicated that Declaration evidence in support of the arguments of improved heavy duty friction resistance would be received with interest.

Applicants are completing comparative experimentation and will present an executed Declaration to show unexpected improvement attributable to the claimed bearing structure. The Examiner is respectfully requested to suspend examination of this application for a reasonable period to permit Applicants to complete and present the Declaration.

Finally, ranges of hardfacing material find support at page 8,

U.S. APPLICATION
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket No.: 3654.006

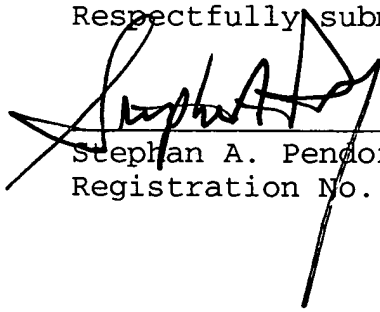
line 13 and page 13, lines 28-35.

Entry of the above amendments are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: **February 4, 2004**



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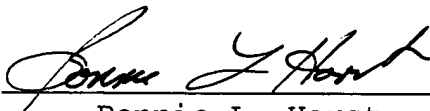
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV392067358US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **February 4, 2004**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, except for the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.



Bonnie L. Horst